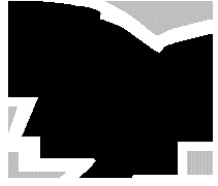


MONROE



COUNTY

ACK DOYLE

MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**For Immediate Release:**

**Tuesday, October 8, 2002**

## **Doyle Submits FY 2003 Budget**

*Operating Budget Restores Funding for Parks and  
Increases County Aid to Library and Cultural Agencies*

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle today submitted the FY 2003 budget to the Monroe County Legislature. The \$914.5 million county budget restores more than \$2 million for numerous community programs and services, providing additional funding for the parks, the library, and cultural agencies. The 2003 budget also marks the 11<sup>th</sup> straight year without a County property tax increase.

“Given the fiscal pressures facing our county, I am very pleased to put together a budget that both protects working families and preserves our quality of life,” said Doyle. “By streamlining programs and reforming the way we deliver social services, we’re making county government more cost-effective and doing more with less.”

The budget includes more than \$2 million in restorations, made possible by more aggressive pursuit of delinquent taxpayers. The restorations include:

- \$1.2 million for Monroe County parks, enabling the parks to remain open 7 days a week and keeping Ontario Beach Park open for swimming;
- \$250,000 in funding for the continuation of some maintenance, sweeping, mowing, and animal pickup services provided by Town Highway Departments;
- \$200,000 to enable the Monroe County Library to continue Saturday hours at the Central Library and restore online reservation services;
- \$350,000 in restorations for cultural agencies, including \$200,000 for the Rochester Museum and Science Center, \$60,000 for the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, \$30,000 for the Memorial Art Gallery, \$30,000 for the George Eastman House, and \$30,000 for the Genesee Country Museum.

The 2003 budget does not include a County property tax increase, marking the 11<sup>th</sup> straight year of stable property taxes. “The cost of increasing

property taxes for our community is simply too high,” said Doyle, who emphasized that increased property taxes would make it more difficult for the County to attract new employers and encourage job creation and investment. “Raising taxes would undercut our efforts to create jobs while adding to the burdens borne by working families and seniors in our community. Raising taxes might be the easy way to address a budget shortfall, but it’s not the *right* way.”

Doyle stated that Monroe County’s 2003 budget reflects the fiscal realities facing many counties throughout the state, pointing out that failure to take action would leave the County with a budget shortfall between \$45 million and \$65 million at the end of the 2003 fiscal year. The County’s financial pressures stem largely from the rising cost of the County’s share of Medicaid, increased health insurance costs, and declining revenues from investment income and the sales tax.

The 2003 budget, which totals \$40.4 million less than the 2002 adopted budget, reflects these fiscal concerns. Among the cost-saving initiatives in the 2003 budget:

- Reorganizing the delivery of social services (saving \$30 million);
- Reducing the size of the Monroe County workforce (saving \$35 million);
- Freezing the salaries of all Department heads and management personnel (saving \$1.5 million)
- Consolidating facilities management and engineering services (saving \$4.8 million)
- Centralizing financial functions by consolidating finance staff from the physical services sector into the Department of Finance (saving \$800,000)

Doyle’s budget will now be considered by the County Legislature, which is expected to take the issue up at its November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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